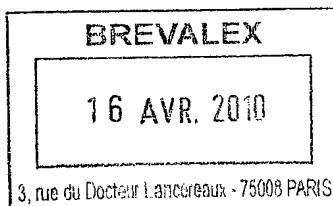


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Reference SR 26468 JP/HM	Application No./Patent No. 04707298.8 - 2416 / 1592182 PCT/JP2004000986
Applicant/Proprietor NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CORPORATION	

Communication

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the supplementary European search report under Article 153(7) EPC for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

- ☒ 1 additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 9 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



SUPPLEMENTARY EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 70 7298

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)		
X	US 2001/050914 A1 (AKAHANE SHINICHI [JP] ET AL) 13 December 2001 (2001-12-13) * paragraph [0015]; figure 6 * * paragraph [0050] * * paragraph [0058] - paragraph [0060] *	1-28	INV. H04L12/56 H04L29/04 H04L12/46		
Y	WO 02/098064 A1 (TURIN NETWORKS [US]; WEST STEVE [US]; BRANDIS DIRK [US]; SMITH RUSS [U]) 5 December 2002 (2002-12-05) * the whole document *	1-28			
Y	EP 0 512 495 A2 (FUJITSU LTD [JP]) 11 November 1992 (1992-11-11) * the whole document *	1-28			
Y	US 5 353 145 A (LE COQUIL EMILE [FR] ET AL) 4 October 1994 (1994-10-04) * the whole document *	1-28			
A	US 4 873 681 A (ARTHURS EDWARD [US] ET AL) 10 October 1989 (1989-10-10) * the whole document *	1-28	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>H04L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)	H04L
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)					
H04L					
<p>The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.</p>					
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 7 April 2010	Examiner Jaskolski, Jaroslaw		
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>					

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

☒ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-28

an apparatus and a system in which packets are received that
comply to dissimilar communication protocols;

2. claims: 29-31(completely); 33-36(partially)

an edge router and a system that obtains/stores switching
information for switching a packet at each router apparatus
positioned along a transfer path of the packet;

3. claims: 32(completely); 33-36(partially)

a core router and a system switching a received packet based
on a switching information affixed to the packet and
deleting this information;

The only combination of features common to all three groups of claims are generally known elements of a telecommunications network: switches, routers. These elements perform generally known functions of routing/switching packets.

Therefore the present set of claims is not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept and the requirement of unity of invention is not met.

Additionally claims 33 and 34 define systems having elements of both the second and the third groups of claims, therefore they belong to both the second and the third groups, along with the dependent claims 35 and 36.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 04 70 7298

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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07-04-2010

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